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Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which imposes extensive mandates on State and local governments, it promised it would pay 40 percent of the costs. Those costs have proven to be huge, and the Federal Government has shirked paying its share. This bill will enact a large increase, \$2.5 billion, in the amount the Federal Government will pay. The Murray amendment would add another \$2.5 billion in IDEA funding, and would also add money to pay for some of President Clinton's new education spending proposals. The problem with this amendment, though, is that it does not say from where it would get the money. It would just make an across-the-board cut. If offsets were identified, as they are for the extra \$2.5 billion in IDEA funding in the underlying resolution, we would give this amendment greater consideration. However, because it does not identify specific offsets, we urge our colleagues to vote in favor of the motion to table.

Those opposing the motion to table contended:

The budget resolution before us, as drafted by Republicans, will not spend enough money on education. Starting from last year's spending level, it will add \$2.5 billion for disabilities education and \$6.3 billion for Title VI School Reform efforts, for a total increase of just \$8.8 billion over the next 5 years. It then assumes that \$2.2 billion will be saved by consolidating current educational services, so the overall, net increase to educational funding over 5 years will be just \$6.6 billion. The Murray amendment would nearly double this increase. It would add another \$2.5 billion for disabilities education and then would add funding for many of the President's education initiatives, including funding: to train teachers in new technologies; to recruit minority teachers; to create education empowerment zones; to increase Title I spending; to increase the maximum Pell Grant; and to increase Safe and Drug-Free Schools spending.

The American people want and expect the Federal Government to increase educational spending. Teachers and parents, and State and local governments, are working together to make improvements. Our Republican colleagues like to say that the best decisions are made at the local school level, and they want to block grant many programs. We tend to agree with local decision-making, but we do not want to see it used as a cover for cutting the Federal Government's commitment. Federal funds are desperately needed.

Our criticisms are not solely of Republicans. President Clinton, in his budget request, failed to ask for enough spending on education in several key areas. For instance, he only asked for a \$35 million increase for disabilities education, and he asked for either reduced or no funding for several programs, including Impact Aid, State Student Incentive Grants, and Urban Community Service funding.

The Murray amendment would correct the educational shortcomings in both Republican and Democratic budget proposals. It would pay for its spending by making a small, across-the-board cut in all other nondefense discretionary spending. This amendment appropriately recognizes that greater priority must be placed on education. We urge Senators to support it.